

Claims

- 5 1. A fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a surface of a component, said fixing assembly comprising said surface of the component, a fixing member and a fixing screw, said surface and said fixing member being formed with a female location feature and a male location feature respectively, or vice versa, such that in use, said male and female location features fit together, and said fixing screw passes through an
10 aperture in said fixing member to secure said fixing member to said surface.
- 15 2. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 1 in which said fixing screw is available for securing said component to a second component.
- 20 3. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which the fixing screw is external to said surface.
- 25 4. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 in which said male and female location features such have at least one corresponding undercut so that in use an interference fit is formed between said male and female locating features.
5. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 4 in which the interference fit forms a dovetail joint.
- 30 6. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is prismatic (flat) in profile.

7. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is conical in profile.
- 5 8. A fixing assembly as claimed in any preceding claim in which the male location feature has a slit, such that the male location feature is divided into two arms.
- 10 9. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 8 in which the male location feature having a slit is located on the fixing member.
- 15 10. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 9 in which the fixing member is formed such that the slit extends radially from the aperture, through said location feature.
- 20 11. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 10 in which the slit is formed in a plane substantially parallel to the axis of the aperture.
- 25 12. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 10 in which the slit is formed in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the aperture.
- 30 13. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 11 in which said male location feature is of resiliently deformable material.
14. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the location feature of the component is at least partly located on a rim of said surface.
15. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the fixing screw has a head.

16. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 13 in which the fixing screw has a thickened portion such that when the screw is screwed into the aperture of said male fixing member having at least one male location feature with a slit, the arms of the location feature are pushed apart.
17. A fixing assembly as claimed in any preceding claim in which said surface has a threaded portion adjacent the at least one location feature, such that, in use, as said fixing screw is screwed into said aperture of the fixing member, said fixing screw engages with said threaded portion.
18. A fixing assembly as claimed in any preceding claim in which said surface has a circumferential groove forming said female location feature to lock the fixing member to the component.
19. A fixing assembly as claimed in claim 1 in which the female location feature is on the fixing member and the male location feature is on the said surface.
20. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the first component is an acetabular cup.
21. A fixing assembly as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19 in which the said surface of a component is the surface of a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.
22. A fixing assembly as claimed in any preceding claim in which the fixing member is secured to an external surface of a component.

23. A kit of parts for a fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a surface of a component, the kit comprising a surface of a component, a fixing member and a fixing screw, said surface and said fixing member being formed with a female location feature and a male location feature respectively, or vice versa, such that when the kit of parts is assembled, said male and female location features fit together, and said fixing screw passes through an aperture in said fixing member to secure said fixing member to said surface.
24. A kit of parts as claimed in claim 23 in which the fixing member is secured to an external surface of a component.
25. A kit of parts as claimed in claim 23 in which said surface of a component is the surface of a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.
26. A kit of parts as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 25 in which the said fixing screw is available for securing said component to a second component.
27. A prosthetic ball and socket joint e.g. an acetabular cup of a prosthetic joint, having a male or female location feature in a surface thereof for mutual interfit with a fixing member of a fixing assembly of any one of claims 1 to 21.